

and look forward to spending more time with each of you over the years ahead.

Love,

DAD.

P.S. After reading this, one day do an extra something special for your mom. In my absence over the last six years she has changed a lot of diapers and fixed more than her share of dinners for you.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF HERBERT S. BECKER

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2000

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that we recognize the accomplishments of a visionary who is set to retire from service to the Congress at the end of this year. Herbert S. Becker has been the Director of the Office of Information Technology Services at the Library of Congress. During his 15 years of leadership, he helped bring about new programs in support of the Congress, the Library, and the nation.

In collaboration with the Congressional Research Service, Mr. Becker created a Capitol-Hill-wide Legislative Information System for better and faster access to legislative resources. He oversaw the successful transition to new technology that made the Library's online card catalog easier for patrons to use. He initiated the development and implementation of new technology to improve archiving at the Congressional Research Service and the U.S. Copyright Office. And he helped create a new financial management system.

But perhaps Mr. Becker's most significant accomplishment was his role in the development of the popular THOMAS website for public access to legislative information. With the advent of THOMAS, any citizen can access detailed and recently updated information about the business of Congress and gain insight into the legislative process.

His vision and the strength of his commitment have clearly facilitated the work of the people's representatives. I know I speak for the entire House when I wish him well in his future endeavors and thank him for his years of service to the American people.

MISSING JOURNALIST IN THE UKRAINE

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2000

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, it has been almost three weeks since the highly disturbing disappearance of Heorhii Gongadze, a journalist known for his articles exposing corruption in the Ukraine and for playing a prominent role in defending media freedoms. Mr. Gongadze, whose visit to the United States last December included meetings with the Helsinki Commission staff, was publisher of a new Internet newspaper called *Ukrainska Pravda* (meaning Ukrainian Truth), a publication often critical of senior Ukrainian officials and their associates. In fact, shortly before he vanished, Mr. Gongadze had appar-

ently been facing pressure and threats and had complained that police were harassing him and his colleagues at *Ukrainska Pravda*.

Unfortunately, Mr. Gongadze's disappearance takes place in an increasingly unhealthy media environment. According to the Committee to Protect Journalists, his disappearance follows several suspect or inconclusive investigations into the suspicious deaths of several Ukrainian journalists over the last few years and the beatings of two journalists following their articles about official corruption this year. This disappearance has occurred within an environment which has made it increasingly difficult for professional journalists to operate, including harassment by tax police, criminal libel prosecutions, the denial of access to state-controlled newsprint and printing presses, and phone calls to editors suggesting that they censor certain stories. Such an atmosphere clearly has a chilling effect on press freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I am encouraged that the Verkhovna Rada—the Ukraine's parliament—has formed a special ad hoc committee to investigate Mr. Gongadze's disappearance. I am also hopeful that the Ukraine's Ministry of Internal Affairs and other law enforcement agencies will conduct a serious, vigorous investigation to solve the case of this missing journalist.

As Chairman of the Helsinki Commission and as someone who has a longstanding interest in the Ukraine, I am deeply disappointed that the Ukraine's relatively positive human rights record has been tarnished by an environment not conducive to the development of a free media. I remain hopeful that the Ukrainian authorities will make every effort to reverse this situation.

HONORING TAIWAN'S NATIONAL DAY, OCTOBER 10, 2000

HON. JENNIFER DUNN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2000

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, as President Chen Shui-bian, Vice President Annette Lu, and the people of the Republic of China prepare to celebrate their National Day on October 10, 2000, I wish to extend my sincere congratulations on their progress.

Since its founding 89 years ago, the Republic of China on Taiwan has attained many remarkable achievements. Their progress ought to be recognized by the United States and emulated by the entire world community. For instance, Taiwan's economy is robust. In June of this year, exports and imports grew nearly 25 percent from the previous year. This growth is due in large part to Taiwan's embrace of the new economy, specifically information and high technologies.

Not only has Taiwan experienced strong economic growth, but Taiwan is also a democracy in the truest sense of the word. Taiwan upholds the freedoms we, as Americans, hold dear, including free elections, free media, and free expression.

Mr. Speaker, Taiwan is truly a model of success for many countries in the world. Taiwan deserves our congratulations and our support.

GOVERNOR RIDGE HONORS CONGRESSMAN WILLIAM GOODLING

HON. BUD SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2000

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following remarks to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on behalf of my good friend and former Member of this body, the current Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Tom Ridge, in honor of the outstanding contributions and dedicated service that Congressman BILL GOODLING has provided to the United States Congress, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the people of the 19th Congressional District.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN WILLIAM GOODLING

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: It gives me great pleasure to join the Pennsylvania delegation to honor Congressman Bill Goodling for his outstanding contributions and dedicated service to the United States Congress, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the people of the 19th Congressional District.

Pennsylvania possesses a rich heritage of great civic and business leaders who have made significant contributions to their communities and the Commonwealth as a whole. Bill's attention and unwavering devotion to the needs and best interests of the constituents and our Commonwealth community aligns him with those who exemplify the founding principles of this great nation.

Adequately serving the needs of Pennsylvania citizens, families and communities relies upon the practical knowledge and personal integrity of those committed to the highest measures of citizenship. As Chairman of the Committee on Education and the Workforce Bill Goodling has consistently demonstrated outstanding leadership that directly reflects his unyielding devotion to ensuring a better quality of life for Pennsylvanians. As a devotee to both family and community, his tireless efforts have ensured south central Pennsylvania's economic stability and leadership as we enter the 21st century. It has been my honor to work with him as both a colleague and as Governor and I have personally witnessed his consistent diligence to the highest levels of personal, professional and civic distinction.

Michele and I extend our best wishes to Bill for much happiness and fulfillment in the future.

TOM RIDGE,

Governor, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF IDALOU FIREFIGHTER DAVID BUTLER

HON. LARRY COMBEST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2000

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, today I remember the life of Mr. David Butler, an individual who understood the meaning of dedication and service to his neighbors and his community. On September 19, Mr. Butler was doing what he did best—helping people—when he collapsed and later passed away.

A firefighter with the Idalou, Texas, Volunteer Fire Department for 23 years and Assistant Chief for 10 of those, David gave the ultimate gift of life to save that of another. David,